

by Sonni Schwinn

2-27-91

A Letter From a GI in Saudi Arabia

Almost everybody knows someone who is part of Desert Storm. But not many people receive letters from Saudi Arabia, since GIs mainly write just to their families and closest friends. Other than the occasional brief TV messages directed to military families, broadcast as a public service by the networks, most Americans don't know much about how the people representing this country in the war feel about it or what a day in a war zone is like.

Therefore, *The Wave* has been given permission to publish excerpts from a letter home, written by Specialist James DeMass, 21, a trooper with the 1st Cavalry Division, who was sent to the Middle East on Sept. 29. The letter is dated Jan. 22 and is addressed to his mother in Heber City, Theresa Grant.

James joined the regular army when he was 17 years old. He is a helicopter repair specialist and also is trained as a door gunner. That means that when a helicopter flies into a combat zone to retrieve troops, his job is to fire on the enemy, covering the soldiers as they enter the helicopter.

His mother said that in his first letter home, after arriving at the desert, James wrote, "Everything is sand," and that he had to watch out for scorpions and cobras.

In his Jan. 22 letter, James said he'd been real busy. He said when he wasn't working on helicopters, he and his fellow soldiers were digging bunkers or foxholes and they didn't get much sleep.

He explained, "There are a lot of things to be done. I usually have guard every day and night, 2 hours during the day and 3 hours at night. Then, around 11 p.m. to 3 a.m., we are up because of a Scud missile attack. We all put on our mop suits [a full-body cover-

ing with a gas mask attached or try to sleep in the bunker up and in a bunker, ready for

"But we haven't seen any do their aerial bombing raid; distance. And every day the They fly over filled with bombs here have talked to some of lines (on the enemy's side.)"

run around... The people in it doesn't help. These A-10 pilots about bringing his girlfriend to

"Saddam was given plenty out that way, so we're in a little more. Besides, I'll come over. He closed the letter with, "I

[referring to the air attacks th "I've been given 196 round Weapon). They are also giving gerous.

"Just so you don't worry, artillery and missiles. And it 1st Cavalry: First in, last out

Letter From GI in Saudi Arabia...

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James asked his mom to deliver some personal messages and talked about bringing his girlfriend to meet her after his tour of duty is over. He closed the letter with, "I need to get going. Things to fix and holes to dig," and added in a P.S., "There is a time for peace and a time for war. [Saddam] was given a choice and now he will pay for his wrongdoing."

Heber City school children at Center and North Schools, and members of Mrs. Spencer's LDS Ward, as well as others in the Heber Valley have been sending cards and letters to James. She hopes that by reading these excerpts, they will feel like they've received a letter from him, too.

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logical attack] and sit ud missile attack, I'm

e, Navy, and Marines explosions off in the e A-10 Thunderbolts.

y. Some of the pilots e people on the front otect them. They just ve themselves, but it in guns.

pace, but it didn't turn le, and maybe take a f this hadn't happened hadn't begun.]

law (Light Anti-Tank ve them. They're dan-

ng that will get me is umber the motto of the

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Specialist James DeMass





Lodge Holds Benefit For Soldier's Family

The Fraternal Order of Eagles #3777 sponsored a benefit breakfast on Sunday, March 10 in honor of John Kamm, who died in Saudi Arabia serving our country. He was a crew pilot. Left to right: Worthy Secretary W. Neil Muir, Worthy President Dan Christians; cooking the breakfast were Jackie Kumlien, Linda Nelson, mother of Donna Kamm, Lois Arnold, Todd Arnold, Douglas Nelson, father of Donna Kamm, Bill and Dawn Kumlien (sitting) who are Donna's aunt and uncle. Dawn Kumlien is being presented with a check for \$150 from the Club to go to Donna Kamm and her son, Jeremy.

Seaman Completes Training

25 Oct 1989
Navy Seaman Recruit Steven W. Haskell, son of Dawn M. Olejniczok, of 390 West 100 South, Heber City, has completed recruit training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

During Haskell's eight-week training cycle, he studied general military subjects designed to prepare him for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 basic fields.

Haskell's studies included seamanship, close order drill, Naval history, and first aid. Personnel, who complete this course of instruction, are eligible for three hours of college credit in Physical Education and Hygiene.

A 1989 graduate of Wasatch High School, he joined the Navy in June, 1989.

*Desert
Storm
Navy*

Richard Irie
in Desert Storm

**S.P.C. Steven Brett Mills
will be home on June 7th.
He has returned from Kuwait.**

We are having a
welcome home party,
167 N. 200 E., Heber.
It will begin at 3:00 pm
and go till 6:00 pm.
Cake, ice cream and punch
will be served.

**Everyone is
invited to come!**
If you have any questions call
654-2427
Steve, Chris and Family

